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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAY 09 2007****LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented): A computer implemented process for auctioning services requested by a buyer via a network, comprising the steps of:

submitting by the buyer via the network a service request to a broker for auctioning;

making available via the network by the broker to potential bidders a buyer rating, wherein said rating includes information on the buyer's follow-through of bids in prior auctions, wherein the potential bidders are sellers of services; and

considering by the potential bidders the rating in deciding on whether to bid on the service request, wherein the higher the rating, the more willing the potential bidders would want to bid, and the lower the rating, the less willing the potential bidders would want to bid.

9. (Original): A process as in claim 8, wherein the rating includes the number of service requests completed with respect to the number of service requests submitted in prior auctions.

10. (Original): A process as in claim 8, wherein the service request is for printing services.

11. (Original): A process as in claim 8, wherein the broker is an electronic broker operating at a node in an information exchange network.

12. (Original): A process as in claim 11, wherein the information exchange network is the Internet.

13-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented): An apparatus for auctioning services requested by a buyer, comprising:

means for receiving from the buyer a service request for auctioning;

means for making available to potential bidders a buyer rating, wherein said rating includes information on the buyer's follow-through of bids in prior auctions, wherein the potential bidders consider the rating in deciding on whether to bid on the service request, wherein the higher the rating, the more willing the potential bidders would want to bid, and the lower the rating, the less willing the potential bidders would want to bid, wherein the potential bidders are sellers of services; and

means for receiving bids from the bidders.

21. (Previously presented): An apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the rating includes the number of service requests completed with respect to the number of service requests submitted in prior auctions.

22. (Previously presented): An apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the service request is for printing services.

23. (Previously presented): An apparatus as in claim 20, further comprising means to communicate with an information exchange network, wherein the buyer and the bidders communicates with the broker system via the information exchange network.

24. (Previously presented): An apparatus as in claim 23, wherein the information exchange network is the Internet.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented): A network system for auctioning services, comprising:
one or more nodes for buyers to access the network;
one or more nodes for bidders to access the network, wherein the bidders are seller of services; and

a broker system for auctioning services requested by a buyer, comprising:
means for receiving from the buyer a service request for auctioning;
means for making available to potential bidders a buyer rating, wherein said rating includes information on the buyer's follow-through of bids in prior auctions, wherein the potential bidders consider the rating in deciding on whether to bid on the service request, wherein the higher the rating, the more willing the potential bidders would want to bid, and the lower the rating, the less willing the potential bidders would want to bid; and
means for receiving bids from the bidders.